

# The Big Stone Post.

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LEADING PAPER OF SOUTHWEST VA.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE

BIG STONE POST PUBLISHING CO.

C. E. SEARS, PRESIDENT

EDWIN BARBOUR, EDITOR.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

One Year, \$1.25  
Six Months, 75  
Payment strictly in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Display advertisements per inch, for each insertion \$1.00  
Legal notices, obituaries, etc., 10 cents per line each insertion.

Discount allowed for one column or more.  
Attorneys who insert legal advertisements in the Post for their clients will be considered responsible for them and bills for the same are payable monthly.

Friday, April 8, 1892.

Mass-Meeting.

A mass-meeting of the Democratic voters of Wise County is hereby called to meet at Wise C. H. on the first day of the April term of the County Court for the purpose of electing delegates to the State Democratic convention which meets in Richmond on the 19th day of May, to elect delegates to the National Democratic convention. At this meeting the Democrats will also be called upon to elect a new county chairman. H. A. W. SKEEN, County Chairman.

The Fair.

The Fair Association has been organized. Officers have been elected to conduct its affairs, and in a few days these officers will begin to call upon the citizens here, and those interested here to subscribe for the stock of the Association. This matter of soliciting subscriptions has been left in the hands of the Executive Committee elected last Saturday night, and all parties who desire to subscribe for this stock should notify some member of that committee at once. The names of the gentlemen who compose this committee appear on the first page of to-day's Post.

Big Stone Gap has undertaken to hold this Fair now and no pecuniary consideration should be allowed to stand in the way of its being a success. It is to the interest of every man who owns a dollar's worth of property in this town to see that this Fair is a success. A good local exposition here will do more to attract the attention of the outside world and advertise our town than thousands of dollars spent in any other way; and nothing would do us half the injury as would be done by allowing this Fair to be a failure. We cannot afford to let this be anything else than a big success, and every man who is at all interested in the development of this town and section is personally interested in making it such a success.

Aside from the indirect advantages to be derived from holding the Fair, investment in the stock of this Association is a good thing. There is little question but that the Association could be made self-sustaining and even pay a fair return on the money invested. The income of such Associations when they are successful is very large, and this kind of stock is regarded in many localities as the very best kind of investment. If such an Association can be successful anywhere it ought to be right here. There is, not now ever has been, any such Association in this section and the field is a virgin one. The very novelty of the thing will attract immense crowds from all over this mountain section of Southwest Virginia and Eastern Kentucky. The money paid in by these people for admission to the grounds, and that received for the various privileges that are usually granted on such occasions would we think be ample to pay the running expenses of the Association and a fair return on the principle invested.

This Fair is to be held for the benefit of Big Stone Gap and all interested in the welfare of this city are expected to do something towards making it successful.

Better than for Two Years.

All things considered the outlook here now is better than it has been at any time in the last two years. The people of Big Stone Gap have every reason to be encouraged, and confident of the future. This place has passed through a long period of prostration that would have wrecked and ruined any other locality. No town in the South has had to pass through such a prolonged financial depression. Yet there is no town in the South that is now on a more solid basis, or in which the people are more confident of a bright future. During the boom year of 1890, when almost every hamlet from Lynchburg to Birmingham was booming and the people seemed to go mad in their eagerness to build a city at every cross-roads, Big Stone Gap was quiet; money was tight; business men were struggling hard to keep their heads above water and it looked as if this was the only point in the whole South that was not on a "boom." Despite these adverse circumstances, the noble men who had thrown in their lot with Big Stone Gap, with but few exceptions, persisted in sticking to the Gap and refused to desert the spot whereon they so firmly believed that sooner or later would be built a great city.

The wisdom of this course is now apparent. Nearly, if not quite, all of these

boom towns that made such loud pretensions eighteen months ago, have quietly gone the way of all bubbles and are no more. On the contrary Big Stone Gap despite the stringency of the money market, has gone on and pursued the even tenor of her way. Handsome buildings have been erected, two large furnaces have been almost completed and iron and coal mines have been opened; the timber trade has expanded and improvement is noticeable in every direction. The bankers say that money is more plentiful than it has been in two years; and merchants say that their trade is improving; laboring men and mechanics can find abundance of work at fair pay, indeed the demand for labor is greater than the supply, and many more men than are now here can find remunerative employment in this immediate section.

We are glad to see these many signs of prosperity. We congratulate the people who have hung on here in the face of all obstacles on the good fight they have made, and rejoice with them over the bright outlook for the future.

THAT WAS a horrible crime committed in Bristol Monday night. Some of the details as published in the Bristol papers seem almost incredible. That a murderer should remain in the embrace of the wife of his victim almost in sight of the corpse his hand had made for an hour after the deed that sent the wronged husband's soul into eternity seems too heinous to be true. At the sight of such utter depravity and villainous man stands appalled and wonders, if it be possible for human nature to become so degraded. He is horrified at the spectacle of a being made in the same image in which he is himself formed falling into such depths of degradation, and trembles at the thought that the vile wretch is of his own kind, and that it is not impossible that there is within him the elements which under certain circumstances might bring him to a similar end. The crime is a terrible one, but we hope that the people of Bristol will, let calm reason prevail and not resort to violent lynch law methods.

It is reported that the Richmond Terminal plan of re-organization has failed to go through, on account of the refusal of the security holders of the Terminal to accept the terms of the settlement. If this be true it is unfortunate for the South. This is the greatest railroad system in the South and the unsettled state of its affairs has a bad effect upon the country at large.

The Cost of Iron North and South.

[Atlanta Constitution.]  
The sixth annual report of the commissioner of labor contains statements which are likely to attract attention. The whole of the large volume is taken up with two subjects, the cost of production of iron, steel, etc., and the cost of living among the operatives whose labor produces these articles.

The matter to which we call attention here is the relative cost of making pig iron in the northern and southern states. The figures given are based on reports from twenty-five establishments in the northern, and twenty-four in the southern district. The reports give the quantity of material per ton of product, and in a subsequent table, the cost of materials per ton of product. The net result is that the average cost of making pig iron in the northern district was \$11.73 and in the southern \$8.41. This result is by no means unexpected. Indeed the surprise is that the difference is not greater when northern furnaces pay \$7.53 for ore, cinder and scrap, while those at the south get it for \$3.48. The difference, it would seem, ought to be at least \$4 per ton, for none of the other materials, limestone, coke, etc., are appreciably higher per ton at the south. Why then should the southern furnaces only be able to reduce the cost \$3.22 instead of the full difference of \$4 in the ton price of materials? The southern furnaces are of the latest pattern and have been supposed to be as good as those in the northern district. The management is also in some instances identical with that of furnaces in Pennsylvania. A closer examination of the report shows the secret of this apparent lack of economy. It is in the quality of the ore used by southern furnaces. They are not as rich in iron as the northern ores, and it takes more of them to make a ton of iron. It of course requires more tons of coke to melt the larger quantity of ore, and the result is that the cost of fuel is increased.

NEW GAMBLING MACHINE.

[New York Times.]  
The latest form of the slot machine, if it is not suppressed by the authorities, will probably achieve a larger popularity than any of the nickel-devouring affairs which have preceded it. It is nothing more nor less than an automatic gambling device. The apparatus consists of a wooden case eighteen inches high by twelve wide and three thick. At the top is a slot for a nickel and at the bottom a spout from which the infrequent winnings have issuance.

The path of the nickels through the machine is shown by two glass disks. Behind the glass disks are three paths for the nickels to take. They are numbered one, two and three. The purpose of the individual who has money to throw away on the machine is to drop a nickel in the slot so that it will fall into path No. 2, in which case he will see three nickels drop out of the spout at the bottom. If the nickel goes into paths 1 or 3, as it generally does, the nickel is lost. Two little metallic points are arranged in the paths to deflect the nickel's course, and it requires no very close scrutiny to discover that their arrangement is such that a nickel rarely glides into path No. 2.

In other words, the odds are about six to one against the man who expects to win three nickels for one. A singular feature of the device is that two or three brass disks, the size of nickels, occasionally show through the glass front; these brass disks have a fashion of dropping out very often among the winnings. They were undoubtedly put in the machines by the makers to increase the odds.

These machines are being gradually scattered over the city, and are mostly to be found in bar rooms. The name of the manufacturer does not appear upon the machine, but over the slot are stamped the words, "Patented January 15, 1889."

The L. & N.

[Birmingham Age-Herald.]

A grand old road isn't it? Amid all the combinations and reorganizations and reports and rumors and deals and receivers, she holds her steady way. She looks out for two things—her stockholders and the people. She is not engaged in any winking schemes to profit individuals. The development of the country along her lines is enough to absorb her surplus energies. In these days of trouble fortune is Alabama that she has one great system so stable, so conservative and so wise. Birmingham has leaned on this great railroad from infancy. She is leaning yet. The Louisville and Nashville is the great sure factor of the future about which there is no doubt.

MACKAY WENT HUNGRY.

An Incident in a Bonanza King's Early Days of Poverty.  
[San Francisco News Letter.]

John W. Mackay once worked a claim that turned out a failure. He had scarcely any supplies left. He sat in his lonely cabin one rainy night supperless reading by his last tallow candle a work on mineralogy, which he had borrowed from a lordly and surprised engineer. Above the noise of the storm came a knock at the door. Andy Hepworth, keeper of the "All-Souls Saloon" at Thompson's Bar, staggered in. His stagger was caused by many things. One of them was a lot of his own whiskey, which was under his skin; the others were two sides of bacon and a sack of flour, which weighted his shoulders and hands.

"John," he said, "you never spent a dollar over my bar or any other bar at the camp, and that shows your good sense; but the boys tell me you're in hard luck, and I know a man when I see one. Here's something to keep you going." And he threw on the rough floor the sack of flour and two sides of bacon. He retained the whiskey.

It was a good many years later, when Mackay had become a rich man, that he again met Hepworth, gone in health, and crushed in spirit, lounging among the crowd of hopeless ones who hang like flies about the bungalow of the stock market sugarless.

"Hello, Andy," cried John Mackay, delighted.

"You don't mean to say that you remember me?" said the broken man.

"Remember you," laughed the millionaire. "You bet I do, and that flour and bacon, too. Broke?"

"Flat."

"I'll carry you a hundred of Con. Virginia."

"Good enough, John. You've rescued me from hell. When shall I sell?"

"When I tell you."

But he wouldn't sell when he was told, and Mackay had to pay the loss.

This thing happened three times.

Then the millionaire put his arm through Hepworth's and took him up to his office one day.

"Andy," he said, seriously, "has whiskey got you, or can't you let it alone?"

"Yes, I can."

"Honest Injun?"

"Straight."

"All right. There's no use in trying to help you in stocks. You're a gambler, and when the fever gets hold of you, you won't listen to me or any body else. And you know how to run it. That's your forte. I'll send Dick Dey out to find a good place, and you put yourself behind the bar. Come back in two days—3:30 p. m."

At the hour appointed Mr. Dey and Mr. Hepworth were there.

"Here," said Mr. Mackay, drawing a check; "there's \$10,000, Andy. Dick struck an A1 place on Market street. You can buy it and have something left to stand a run of baracca, if need be. Keep the bottle for other folks and you'll be all right. If you don't—but I hope you will for your own sake, and don't you ever forget, Andy, that flour and bacon will always be a draft at sight for a grub stake."

I'm happy to say that the new All Souls is a success; that Andy is as temperate as a parson, and that he's done the manly thing and paid back every cent of that \$10,000 out of less virtuous men's purses. If you don't believe it, ask Dick Dey.

BLUE GLASS LOVE.

Walked Twenty Miles at Night to Marry Her Choice.

George Palfrey and Miss Cora L. Collins were married in Jeffersonville, Ind., recently, after having overcome a series of obstacles. The pair hailed from Montgomery county, Ky.

The objections of the lady's parents made it necessary for her to elope with her lover, and she left the house early in the night to join her intended husband, who was in waiting at a safe distance from the house. They at once sat out for Chambers station, twenty miles distant, the nearest railway station. All night long they trudged along, occasionally being compelled to stop and warm by a fire which Palfrey would build on the roadside. Their progress was slow, but at length they arrived at the objective point in a half frozen condition, only to find that the train for Louisville had passed a short time before. It was midnight when they crossed to Jeffersonville. An enterprising matrimonial agent encountered them, and divining their mission proffered his services, which were gladly accepted. The marriage certificate was secured, and going to a magistrate's residence the knot was tied. The groom now found himself in an embarrassing position. Having left home with a limited amount of funds, and after having paid \$2 for his marriage license he made the painful discovery that \$1.10 was the total of the balance on hand. He tossed the \$1 and left him only a sufficient sum to pay the ferry across the Kentucky. He studied some time how he could recompense the young man whose services had been so valuable to him, when he pulled his Barlow knife and empty wallet from his pocket and proffered them, but they were declined. Palfrey then promised upon arriving home to adjust matters with a remittance. The early morning boat carried the bride and groom back to their native State.

IRON AT PITTSBURG.

The Southern Product is the Disturbing Feature.

In its Saturday review of the iron trade, the Pittsburgh Dispatch says: The improved feeling among leading dealers an-

nounced in our last continues, prices being steadily maintained, and for certain descriptions higher figures have been demanded, several round lots of Bessemer being disposed of at \$14.75. As a whole, the market looks decidedly healthy, and consumers are beginning to realize that delays may be dangerous. As usual, there is considerable difference of opinions. While considerable iron has been taken, many consumers look upon the present low prices as rock bottom, and are therefore buying sufficient to cover requirements for several months. This anticipation of future wants has not been general, and there are quite a number of consumers of pig iron that continue to purchase only what they require for immediate wants. Stocks are very heavy, but there has been a continued reduction in the number of furnaces in blast, and there are indications of a more general blowing out or banking during the coming month.

SOUTHERN PIG COMING NORTH.

It is reported that considerable southern pig iron is being sent to various parts of this State, freights being more favorable to the southern producers than formerly. The competition of the iron of this section is likely to be more seriously felt in the near future, as the southern trunk lines have 40 cents per ton in freight rates that went into effect on March 28.

A well-informed dealer says: "The iron business here reached a point at which it is felt that as matters cannot be worse they must of necessity soon begin to get better, and this is undoubtedly the actual fact. Be that as it may, we have failed to hear of a single instance in which a seller has thought it worth while to entertain any proposition for business which would involve any successions in prices, but numerous cases have been met with which dealers refused to duplicate recent transactions."

REDUCING WAGES AT FURNACES.

The furnace owners of the Mahoning and Shenango valleys have decided, by reason of the bad condition of trade, to post notices of a reduction of 10 per cent. in wages of all blast furnace employees. The notice will take effect on April 10 at some furnaces and at others April 15, according to date of pay day. It is probable the employees will refuse to accept the reduction.

A dispatch from Birmingham, Ala., says: "Iron men are jubilant on account of the reduction of 50 cents on railroad freights to the Ohio river, and as a result, the iron is now moving northward. The reduction is believed by iron men here, to make their position impregnable and it will be followed by a corresponding reduction in the price of their product."

HUMAN FRICKS.

Miss Helen Beings Who Are Exhibited for Gain.

There is no business more thoroughly cut and dried than that of the exhibition of fricks. Fricks are born, not made. Of course there are imitation fricks, just as there are imitation coins, but they have no real value. Every genuine freak, says the New York World, is known to every museum manager and rival freak in the country and has a definite standing. Their traveling life is not dissimilar to the average actor's, and their conversation is very like that of the barnstormer. It usually consists of startling facts, such as "Stewart, the truncated fraction of humanity, is playing in Cleveland," and that "the electricity in Mattie Palmer, the magnetic girl, gave out Friday last while she was playing in Hoboken and she was doctored five dollars in consequence." These standard freaks—indeed they might in some cases be called classic freaks—have a fixed salary for which they exhibit their misshapen selves and breathe the foul air of the museum for twelve hours a day. The salaries seldom fall below twenty-five dollars for a good freak and frequently run up as high as fifty dollars. Millie Christine, the two-headed nightingale, who was a contemporary of Booth and Barrett, and occupied about the same position in the freak business as they did in the theatrical firmament, is said to have received four hundred dollars per week. There are, of course, occasional freaks, such as fasters and sufferers from big fires and floods, but they are regarded as interlopers and hold no real position among the genuine article.

PRINCE BISMARCK.

Retains a Warm Place in the Hearts of His Countrymen.

BERLIN, April 1.—To-day was Prince Bismarck's 77th birthday. Numerous deputations from various parts of the country waited upon him. The environs of Friedrichsruhe were densely thronged all day with people, all desirous of honoring the great German statesman. To-night the place was brilliantly illuminated and a torch-light procession was held. It is estimated that there were 2,000 men in procession.

Bismarck made a speech. He thanked the people for the great honor they conferred on him, which, he said, implied the approval of his actions. "If," he continued, "we hold what we have attained we are strong enough to defend ourselves, both on the right and on the left. Gird every one on his sword, but we will never commence the attack." In conclusion he said that the good wishes of neighboring fellow-citizens were more in his eyes than were many honors that had been conferred upon him. Five thousand congratulatory telegrams and seven hundred registered letters and parcels have arrived at Schloss.

FOR CLEVELAND.

That is the Complexion of the Minnesota Delegates to Chicago.

ST. PAUL, MINN., March 28.—Reports have been received from seventy-five of the eighty counties in Minnesota as to the delegates chosen to the Democratic State Convention here on Thursday to choose delegates to the Chicago Convention. Of the 445 delegates so far chosen, 405 are instructed for Cleveland. There are no delegates chosen for Hill, although the twenty selected from the counties of Brown and Washington are said to lean toward him. Palmer and Boies each have a small following, and one Murray county delegate is for Carlisle. The party leaders say the convention will instruct the delegates to vote for Cleveland from first to last.

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BIG STONE GAP IMPROV

And of the bulk of the lots and acre property in the town and vicinity of BIG ST

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You Can Not Afford to Buy without a

C. NOE

ALL KINDS OF TIMBER AND HOUSE FURNISHING

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The company will receive from Shippers

tion for EXPORT DIRECT to Hamburg or

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in the foreign markets cannot be excelled.

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Schedule December 6, 1891.

LEAVE NORTON DAILY.

6:45 a. m. for Graham, Bluefield, and Intermediate

stations.

1:55 p. m. for Bluefield, Radford, Roanoke, Lynchburg,

Richmond, and Norfolk. Also (via Roanoke)

for Washington, Hagerstown, Harrisburg,

Philadelphia and New York.

Pullman Sleeping Cars from Louisville to Norfolk

via Norton and Radford; also Radford to New

York via Shenandoah Junction, also Radford to

Washington; also from Lynchburg to Rich-

mond.

Trains for Touchdown, Powhatan and Goodwill leave

Bluefield daily at 7:55 a. m. and 2:15 p. m.

6:50 p. m. 10:50 p. m.

Trains arrive at Norton from the East Daily 11:45 a.

m. and 6:15 p. m.

For further information as to schedules, rates, etc.,

apply to agent of Norfolk & Western

Railroad or to

W. B. BATTLE,

General Passenger Agent, Roanoke, Va.

South, South

By 8:05 p. m.

By 7:25 a. m.

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